

CLAIMS

We claim:

1. A product carrying and storage device comprising:
 - a bag having an opening and having one or more handles adjacent to said opening; and
 - a bag topper having one or more handle openings wherein said one or more handles of said bag can each be passed through said one or more handle openings to attach said topper to said bag and said topper substantially covers the entirety of said opening.
2. The device described in claim 1 wherein said bag has front and rear panels and a pair of gusseted side panels connecting said front and rear panels and a flat-style folded and glued bottom panel connected to said front and rear panels and said side panels are constructed to move between a folded storage position adjacent said front or said rear panel and said bottom panel is substantially parallel and adjacent to said front and rear panels and said side panels.
3. The device described in claim 2 wherein said topper has a top panel, front and rear panels and a pair of side panels and said top panel substantially covers the entirety of said opening of said bag upon placing said handle through said handle openings and wherein said front and rear panels and said side panels of said topper device overlap the corresponding said front and side panels and said pair of side panels of said bag upon placement of said topper device on said bag.
4. The device described in claim 3 wherein said bag is made from paper and said topper device is made from cardboard.

5. The device described in claim 3 wherein said bag has two handles and said topper device has two handle openings.

6. The device described in claim 3 wherein said topper device is constructed to move between a folded storage position wherein an overlapping triangular portion of said front panel and said side panel of said topper device are folded resulting in said front panel and said side panel laying substantially flat adjacent to said top panel.

7. The device described in claim 3 wherein said topper device is formed from a single sheet of material having portions around the perimeter of said top layer that are folded to form said front and rear panels and said side panels and wherein each of said side panels also includes two flaps that fold and are attached to said front and rear panels respectively.

8. The device described in claim 7 wherein said handle openings are formed in said single sheet of material by creating a partial cut that results in handle guide material from said top panel being pivoted in continuity with said front and rear panels as the perimeter portions of said single sheet of material are folded thereby creating said handle opening in the evacuated area of said handle guide material.

9. A method of forming and using a product carrying and storage device comprising the steps of:

unfolding a bag having front and rear panels and a pair of side panels attached to a bottom panel with two handles, one handle each being respectively attached to said front and rear panels of said bag;

unfolding a topper device having front and rear panels and a pair of side panels attached to a top panel with two handle openings on the sides of said top panel located adjacent to said front and rear panels; and

inserting said handles through said handle openings to place said topper device on said bag.

10. The method described in claim 9 wherein prior to said inserting step the method further comprises the step of placing a product into said bag.

11. The method described in claim 10 wherein said method further comprises the steps of:

removing said topper device by pulling said handle openings off of said handles; and
turning said topper device upside down so that said top panel is located beneath said front and rear panels and said side panels of said topper device; and
using said topper device as a tray for said products in said bag.